

<u>Danielle Ferguson</u>, Argus Leader Published 8:31 a.m. CT June 12, 2018 | Updated 1:06 p.m. CT June 12, 2018

South Dakota is set to receive additional attorney power to focus on violent crime and civil enforcement of opioids with a national roll-out of Assistant U.S. Attorneys to combat national crime trends.

District of South Dakota U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons announced Monday that the state will receive an attorney to focus on violent crime and one to focus on civil enforcement of laws to watch over use and distribution of prescription opioids.

Two attorneys have already been added to the Pierre office to zero in on prosecuting crimes committed in Indian Country. Another will be hired to prosecute drug crime out of the Rapid City office.

The statement comes as part of a nationwide announcement earlier this month, when the Department of Justice allocated 311 new Assistant U.S. Attorneys to "assist in priority areas," according to the release.

The allocations were: 190 violent crime prosecutors, 86 civil enforcement prosecutors and 35 immigration prosecutors.